

It pays to give Task Force 1-37 Armor your arms

Story and photos by Staff Sgt Tony Sailer, 1AD PAO

KARBALA, Iraq – The word on the street was that “Hardrock” was buying weapons for the next few days. Dozens of local Iraqis walked or drove to the Police Academy in south Karbala in hopes of selling their arms and ordnance to the coalition soldiers in early June.

Soldiers from C Company, nicknamed Hardrock, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1-37 Armor, 1st Armored Division conducted a weapons buy-back program along with other Soldiers from the task force. Known as the Weapons Reward Program, the goal is to get weapons off the streets and put more than \$30,000 in the pockets of citizens and stimulate the local economy.

“In the Weapons Reward Program, basically we buy back weapons from the Iraqi people,” 1st Lt. Eric Iliff, a fire support officer with C Company said. “The prices [we offer] are pretty competitive. We have had very few people complain.

Gripes usually come from those who are trying to sell inoperative weapons, he said.

“They want to get the full price but for a broken AK,” explained Iliff, “we are only going to pay a small percentage of what we pay for a functional weapon.”

The program started with flyers distributed throughout the community by a Polish Army psychological operations team who also broadcast the messages about the program.

The buy-back program was scheduled for about a week from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM each day.

As the morning passed, villagers started gathering near the Iraqi Police Service station. Some salesmen were looking to hawk ice or cigarettes but a few had weapons to turn in.



Cpl. Jonathan Torres, Bravo Company, 16th Engineers, Task Force 1-37, 1st Armored Division, inspects a rifle while Pfc. Kevin Hicks looks on during a Weapons Reward Program at an Iraqi Police station in Karbala.

As the weapons sellers approached the police station gate, Iraqi police officers greeted them and took possession of the weapons. Then the police searched each visitor and delivered the weapons to the coalition Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Military Police Soldiers who identified, inspected and secured each weapon.

After a short paperwork process, the sellers would receive the going rate for the class of weapon they brought in. Some weapons were worth \$200 to \$300 each.

A wide variety of weapons and ammunition were collected, including dozens of rocket-propelled grenade launchers, assault and other types of rifles, hundreds of hand grenades, and other explosives.

“We have done well considering this is just the first couple of days doing this in Karbala,” Iliff said. “Another unit did the same program down in Najaf. They started off a little bit slow. After a couple of days the people began telling their neighbors

and friends.”

Iliff said that as word got out, other residents started saying, “Hey, the Americans are giving good prices for buying back these weapons. Since we are not fighting anymore let’s sell them back.”

“I think we have done a pretty good job,” Iliff said.

The program does not stop with the purchase. After gathering the weapons, coalition forces use them in a positive way to support the rebuilding of Iraq.

“We will turn these weapons over to the Polish Army contingent,” Iliff said. “The ones that don’t work will be destroyed.”

“All the weapons that do work will be given to the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps,” Iliff explained, “that way the new Iraqi government doesn’t have to buy all new weapons to equip their soldiers. (The weapons) are already here in the country. We just put them in the right hands.”

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Quote of the Day...

"Peace, no less than war, requires idealism and self-sacrifice and a righteous and dynamic faith."

-- John Foster Dulles (1888-1959), diplomat, politician, US Secretary of State



Soldiers from C Company, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1-37 Armor, 1st Armored Division police up weapons and ordnance purchased by the coalition during the task forces' Weapons Reward Program in Karbala. The weapons buy-back program aims to take weapons off the streets of Karbala and stimulate the local economy.

Oddly Enough...

Close Call for Toddler as Elk Crushes Bed

HELSINKI (Reuters) - An elk jumped through a townhouse window and crashed into a toddler's bed, scratching the cheek of a sleeping two-year-old and wreaking havoc in a Finnish family's home over the weekend, police said. The toddler's mother was shocked to find the beast in her bed and ran to a neighbor for help. "(We) were sitting in the living room and all of a sudden we heard a terrible clamor and clatter, as if an earthquake had begun," Mari Lahti told Finnish tabloid *Ilta-Sanomat*. "We opened the door and saw an elk in our bed." The elk then jumped on to her son's bed, crushing it but only scratching the boy's cheek with its hoof. It rampaged through the house and fled through another window.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

Faith

One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "But I can see you and that's all that matters."

Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

1772 Slavery is outlawed in England.

1807 British seamen board the USS Chesapeake, a provocation leading to the War of 1812.

1864 Confederate General A. P. Hill turns back a Federal flanking movement at the Weldon Railroad near Petersburg, Virginia.

1876 General Alfred Terry sends Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer to the Rosebud and Little Bighorn rivers to search for Indian villages.

1930 A son is born to Charles and Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

1933 Hitler bans political parties in Germany other than the Nazis.

1938 Joe Louis floors Max Schmeling in the first round of the heavyweight bout at Yankee Stadium.

1941 Under the codename Barbarossa, Germany invades the Soviet Union.

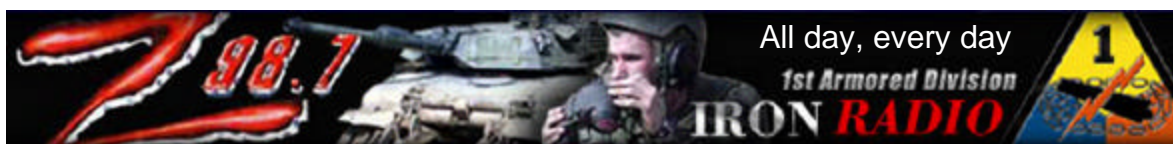
1942 A Japanese submarine shells Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia River.

1944 President Franklin Roosevelt signs the "GI Bill of Rights" to provide broad benefits for veterans of the war.

1970 President Richard Nixon signs the 26th amendment, lowering the voting age to 18.

1973 Skylab astronauts splash down safely in the Pacific after a record 28 days in space.

1981 Mark David Chapman pleads guilty to killing John Lennon.



For your Information...

8TH FINANCE KEY DATES AND ACTIONS

16 JUN to 10 JUL:

BIAP Check Cashing & Casual Pay

M-W-F 0900-1700 hrs

**IRON
FINANCE!**

17 JUN:

All Paying Agents must Clear
8th Finance Bn

POC- CPT Miller @ 551-9308

*Early Clearance is Highly Encouraged

26 JUN:

Last Day for Turn-In of 365 BOG Paperwork

Include Soldiers Eligible through 30 Jun



Reenlistment Bonus Incentives continue.

The Army continues to pay soldiers for remaining part of the team. Recently, some bonuses have been retroactive as far back as March 18, 2003.

If a Soldier reenlisted between March 18 and Sept. 18, 2003 for either option E1 (Regular Army) or E2 (Current station stabilization) and did not receive a bonus, he or she should contact their Career Counselor and see if they qualify for the bonus.

The most current update to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program is MILPER Message 04-163 dated 05/14/2004.

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2004				As of: Monday, June 21, 2004 8:44:00 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS	00:00
00:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	00:30
01:00	SPORTS SPECIAL - 2004 ESPY NOMINATION SHOW	4 QTRS	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - TIME FLIES	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	01:00
01:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - THE SECRET BOX / BAND GEEKS		CBS EVENING NEWS	01:30
02:00	NHRA AUTO RACING - K&N FILTERS SUPERNATIONALS: FINAL ROUND	MLB - CLEVELAND INDIANS @ CHICAGO WHITE SOX	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BART OF DARKNESS	SAGWA	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	02:00
02:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - R.O.T.C.	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		02:30
03:00			MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK GOES TO THE CIRCUS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	03:00
04:00	ESPNEWS		ER (TVPG): - ONE CAN ONLY HOPE	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	THE NEWSHOUR	04:00
04:30	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT - TODAY AT WIMBLEDON					04:30
05:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE RESIDENTS (TV14): - THE LIMITS OF MEDICINE	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	05:00
05:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	05:30
06:00	CHAMP CAR WORLD SERIES - PORTLAND GRAND PRIX	HEADLINE NEWS	LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE	06:00
06:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		06:25
06:30		HEADLINE NEWS				06:30
07:00		SESAME STREET			NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	07:00
07:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		07:13
08:00	SPORTSCENTER	SAGWA		ARTHUR (TVY): - JUST DESSERTS/ THE BIG DIG	PAULA ZAHN NOW	08:00
08:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):	DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - DOUG'S IN THE MIDDLE		08:30
09:00	BASSMASTER ELITE 50	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - TIME FLIES	LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - LIZZIE'S NIGHTMARE	NIGHTLINE	09:00
09:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - THE SECRET BOX / BAND GEEKS	ALL THAT!	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	09:30
09:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				09:46
10:00	MLB - PITTSBURGH PIRATES @ HOUSTON ASTROS		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BART OF DARKNESS	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	10:00
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - R.O.T.C.	HEADLINE NEWS		10:30
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				10:35
11:00			MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK GOES TO THE CIRCUS	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK	11:00
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				11:17
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT		11:30
12:00		HEADLINE NEWS	ER (TVPG): - ONE CAN ONLY HOPE	7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - THE ONE THING	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	12:00
12:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				12:30
13:00	SPORTSCENTER	TODAY	THE RESIDENTS (TV14): - THE LIMITS OF MEDICINE	A BUG'S LIFE	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	13:00
14:00	MLB - OAKLAND ATHLETICS @ ANAHEIM ANGELS		LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL			14:00
15:00		ARTHUR (TVY): - JUST DESSERTS/ THE BIG DIG		PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS	15:00
15:30		DISNEY'S DOUG (TVY): - DOUG'S IN THE MIDDLE		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	15:30
16:00		LIZZIE MCGUIRE (TVG): - LIZZIE'S NIGHTMARE			THE EARLY SHOW	16:00
16:30		ALL THAT!	EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):		16:30
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - TIME FLIES			17:00
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY7): - THE SECRET BOX / BAND GEEKS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		17:30
18:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - BART OF DARKNESS	WALL STREET	FOX NEWS LIVE	18:00
18:30	NBA INSIDE STUFF	HEADLINE NEWS	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - R.O.T.C.			18:30
19:00	WIMBLEDON TENNIS TOURNAMENT - EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 2	7TH HEAVEN (TVPG): - THE ONE THING	MONK (TVPG): - MR. MONK GOES TO THE CIRCUS		FOX NEWS LIVE	19:00
20:00		A BUG'S LIFE	ER (TVPG): - ONE CAN ONLY HOPE		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:15				RAISING ARIZONA		20:15
21:00			THE RESIDENTS (TV14): - THE LIMITS OF MEDICINE		HEADLINE NEWS	21:00
21:30					INSIDE POLITICS	21:30
22:00		HEADLINE NEWS	LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST		22:00
22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	22:30
23:00	AROUND THE HORN			TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	23:00
23:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				23:30